



STATE OF ARIZONA

JANET NAPOLITANO
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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April 14, 2005

The Honorable Jim Weiers
Speaker of the House
Arizona State House of Representatives
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: House Bill 2613: forest health amendments

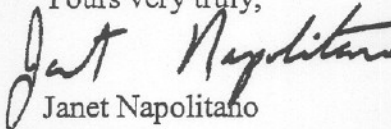
Dear Speaker Weiers:

Today I vetoed House Bill 2613, the inappropriately named "forest health" amendment bill. Contrary to its name, this bill will *not* promote forest health.

The amendments the bill would make to existing law will neither make our forests healthier nor our economy stronger, and Arizona's leading experts and advocates in forest health oppose it. House Bill 2613 would contradict existing state law by allowing the state wildlife-urban fire safety committee (as opposed to the Governor or her designee) to serve as the state's liaison with the federal government and private enterprise relating to the wildland-urban interface and forest health issues. See A.R.S. § 41-101(A) (4) (designating the Governor as "the sole official means of communication between this state and the government of any other state or the United States").

Moreover, contrary to the claims of some of this bill's supporters, House Bill 2613 will have a minimal impact at best on forest-related job growth.

We should develop legislation to further promote forest health and stimulate appropriate forestry-related job growth; and I would welcome a bill that truly accomplishes this. Unfortunately, this bill does not.

Yours very truly,

Janet Napolitano
Governor

JN:TN/jm

cc: The Honorable Ken Bennett
The Honorable Cheryl Chase

Passed the House March 16, 2005,

by the following vote: 43 Ayes,

12 Nays, 5 Not Voting

[Signature]
Speaker of the House

Norman L. Moore
Chief Clerk of the House

Passed the Senate April 11, 2005,

by the following vote: 20 Ayes,

9 Nays, 1 Not Voting

[Signature]
President of the Senate

Charmine B. Bunting
Secretary of the Senate

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR

This Bill was received by the Governor this

11th day of April, 2005

at 3:45 o'clock P. M.

[Signature]
Secretary to the Governor

Approved this _____ day of

_____, 20____,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Governor of Arizona

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE

This Bill was received by the Secretary of State

this 14 day of April, 2005,

at 4:39 o'clock P. M.

[Signature]
Secretary of State

H.B. 2613